



Urban District of Whittlesey

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND THE
Public Health Inspector
FOR THE YEAR
1965

OFFICERS OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :

D.C. Logan, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector :

D.A. Bamford, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

OFFICES OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
6, Delph Street,
Whittlesey.

Telephone No.

Whittlesey 2312-3

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	23, 362
Number of Inhabited Houses	3, 236
Rateable Value (at 31.12.65.)	£327, 420
Product of ld. rate (at 31.3.65.)	£1,330, 4s. 0d.
Population (Registrar General's Figures)	9, 710

TO:

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

I wish to present my Annual Report on the health of the population of Whittlesey for the year 1965.

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation of the work carried out throughout the year by my colleagues in the Health Department, Mr. Bamford and Mrs. Tyers. They have given most loyal service in carrying out their duties and have been most patient and understanding in dealing with the many problems which have been brought to their notice.

I have the honour to be,

Your most obedient servant,

D. C. LOGAN.

Medical Officer of Health

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	90	89	179
Illegitimate	5	7	12
Total :	95	96	191

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population

Whittlesey Urban District	19.1
Whittlesey Urban District adjusted	19.29
England and Wales	18.1

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births 6.28

STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total :	2	1	3

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths

Whittlesey Urban District	15.46
England and Wales	15.7

The stillbirth rate is approximately the same as for England and Wales as a whole. Three stillbirths occurred during the year. One was a twin birth another took place during labour and was caused by a true knot in the umbilical cord causing asphyxia. The third was associated with extreme premature labour at 28 weeks maturity.

TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	92	90	182
Illegitimate	5	7	12
Total :	97	97	194



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INFANT DEATHS (Deaths under one year)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>
Total:			

INFANT MORTALITY RATESTotal Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births

Whittlesey Urban District	-	31.41
England and Wales	-	19.0

Unfortunately the Infant Mortality Rate for Whittlesey, 31.4, was much higher than the rate for England and Wales as a whole. Six deaths occurred during the year, five were associated with prematurity but one survived to eight weeks, when death took place from a severe attack of broncho-pneumonia. This child had in addition, congenital dislocation of the left hip for which treatment was being given. In the other four cases prematurely born, none survived more than four days. The sixth infant death took place at the age of four months and was due to bilateral broncho-pneumonia.

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births 27.9

Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births 83.3

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)

Whittlesey Urban District	-	20.94
England and Wales	-	13.0

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) 20.94

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) 36.06

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)Number of Deaths

Whittlesey Urban District	-	0
England and Wales	-	219

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths

Whittlesey Urban District	-	0.0
England and Wales	-	0.25

DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)

<u>Male</u>	61	<u>Female</u>	34	<u>Total</u>	95
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Death Rate - per 1,000 estimated population

Whittlesey Urban District	-	9.78
Whittlesey Urban District adjusted	-	11.15
England and Wales	-	11.5

Causes of Death in the Whittlesey Urban District, as supplied
by the Registrar General for 1965 :-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	-
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
Diabetes	2	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	7
Coronary disease, angina	16	8
Hypertension with heart disease	-	2
Other heart disease	4	4
Other circulatory diseases	-	1
Influenza	-	-
Pneumonia	9	6
Bronchitis	4	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	3
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
All other accidents	2	1
Suicide	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-
Total :	61	34

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1965 was a year in which there were few notifiable infectious diseases. The campaign to provide immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus and poliomyelitis, is one which is well supported by the public but one finds occasionally that a few less informed members of the public do not appreciate the benefits of these procedures and they are only convinced of the need to have something done when an occasion arises, when for example a child receives a wound for which immediate tetanus prevention is necessary, and then parents discover that they have been remiss in not having immunisation carried out before.

Supplies of vaccine are now of a very high quality and are readily available. Few reactions are encountered.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during 1965 :-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Measles	6	4	10
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Total:	7	5	12

TO

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my tenth Annual Report on the work carried out in the year 1965.

Most of the work done during the year has been in the preparation of schemes for further building. Areas of old property in the town were investigated with a view to re-development, but as good and bad houses are so closely intermingled the expense would be high.

Once more I am pleased to be able to record my thanks to the Public Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health for their continued support and to acknowledge the assistance received from the Clerk of the Council and the Surveyor. I also wish to record my appreciation of the help given by Mrs. Tyers and the pleasant and efficient manner with which she carried out her duties.

I am, Lady & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. A. BAMFORD.

Public Health Inspector

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Water is purchased in bulk from Peterborough Corporation. Storage and distribution in the Urban District are under the control of Mr. D.H.B. Tarr the Surveyor & Water Engineer.

Frequent orthotolodine tests were made of the water from domestic taps and a satisfactory amount of free chlorine was found. The water is not plumbo-solvent, Peterborough Corporation test the water regularly and no treatment other than chlorination is carried out.

Although in the rural parts of the area there are many isolated houses only twelve do not have mains water supply.

The total consumption of water for the year, domestic and trade, was 130,320,000 gallons.

The Council are progressing with preparations to lay a new trunk main from Peterborough and to increase the storage capacity at the reservoir.

CARAVANS

There are 16 licences issued under the Caravan Act for single sites and one multiple site. These sites have been satisfactory and are of a good standard.

The County Planning Authority are taking action to close two unsatisfactory multiple sites which have deemed planning permission.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Most of the town area and the villages of Coates and Eastrea are sewered. Because of the flatness of the area this sewerage relies on five pumping stations.

It is regretted that the bad conditions arising from overflowing septic tanks in part of Snoots Road which have been referred to in previous reports still exist. The Council's Consulting Engineers were engaged to carry out the necessary survey and to take action to carry out roadworks including the provision of a sewer under the Private Street Works Act, which will remedy these conditions. Work was suspended following receipt of Circular No. 62/65 from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government which requested that such works be held over.

NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION

The Council employs a Contractor to empty pails, vaults and cesspools at properties which cannot be connected to the sewer. The Contract in 1965 covered 167 pails which were emptied three times in every fortnight. Septic tanks and vaults are emptied free on request once in any period of six months. The unsatisfactory tanks in Snoots Road are emptied more frequently to try to avoid overflowing. More houses are becoming modernised and the number of pails and vaults is decreasing in consequence.

There have been fewer complaints of delays in this service, the Contractor has mainly emptied appliances within the time allowed him. Unfortunately a request for emptying a septic tank is often not received until it is overflowing and there must inevitably be a delay before the Contractor can get around to emptying it.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The refuse is collected by direct labour and two vehicles are used. The town area is collected weekly by a Shelvoke & Drewry 16/18 cu.yd. vehicle with compressor which is driven by the foreman and has four loaders. The outside areas are collected by a Shelvoke & Drewry 16/18 cu.yd. vehicle which has a driver and one loader. Built up areas are collected weekly and more isolated dwellings have a three weekly collection.

Routine servicing and washing of the vehicles is done by the drivers. Repairs are carried out by local garages.

Despite the fact that as more houses are being built and the weekly load increases only a few complaints are received about this service. These all arise from late collections caused by Bank Holidays or long spells of bad weather. The foreman and staff continue to give a most satisfactory service, it is by their efforts that the collection runs smoothly and pleasantly.

Altogether 169,175 refuse bin collections were made in the year, together with trade refuse collected weekly from 38 premises, this resulted in 1073 journeys to the refuse tip.

No. of bins collected during year	169,175
Town round weekly average	2,072
Outside area weekly round	1,180

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The refuse disposal tip is situated in New Road not far from the centre of the town but away from dwellings.

The tip is open for the reception of rubbish and one man is employed full time to carry out levelling and to salvage scrap metals which are found during the levelling operations. By accepting rubbish it is hoped to prevent the indiscriminate tipping of unwanted articles in dykes, grass verges, etc.

Being a potential source of rat infestation regular poison baiting was carried out and a good measure of control was achieved.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES

Registration of premises is thought to be completed and premises changing hands were checked to ensure that the change of use or in the number of staff did not require action.

The number of inspections was not as high as desired, but it is pleasing to note that the large majority of premises comply with the Regulations. It is hoped to increase the inspections in 1966.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

SWIMMING BATHS

The Council has an open air heated swimming pool in the Manor Field, Station Road. The pool is 110 feet long and 42 feet wide. The Manager carries out tests twice daily, more frequently in times of heavy loads, and by careful control of the continuous filtration and chlorination plant a satisfactory standard was maintained. Bacteriological samples were also satisfactory in spite of high attendances.

MEASUREMENT OF AIR POLLUTION

Because of breakdowns of the apparatus and works of alterations to the school the sampling had to be suspended. Action was taken to find a new site which was acceptable to the Ministry.

INSPECTIONS

The following table summarises the inspections made in 1965 :-

	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Informal Notice</u>	<u>Statutory Notice</u>
Cesspool, pail and vault work	34	5	--
Drainage	19	4	--
Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses	46	7	--
Slaughterhouses and Butchers Shops	207	3	--
Food Shops	83	8	--
Restaurants	15	--	--
Verminous and Filthy Premises	2	--	--
Housing	138	16	--
Nuisances	31	8	--
Rats and mice	33	2	--
Caravan Sites	19	--	--
Refuse Collection and Disposal	72	--	--

Of the 53 informal notices served 48 were complied with.

Following gross pollution of the Briggate River from a source up-stream, outside the district, the Town Area was affected with a vile odour for several days. The River Authorities were requested to increase the amount of water to dilute and disperse the pollution, but they declined. Some families living close to the river left to go to relations and the smell was so bad that Public Houses reported customers leaving without finishing their drinks.

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION

No infestations of vermin were reported or found.

HOUSING

Number of houses erected during 1965 :-

By Local Authority 12 Houses and Bungalows

By Private Enterprise 80 Houses and Bungalows

37 applications were made for Improvement Grants, all of which were approved and received grants.

3 Notices of Time and Place to consider the condition of 3 dwellings were served in the year and the following action taken :-

Demolition Orders	2
Closing Orders	1

23 dwellings were demolished and 12 families were re-housed from unfit houses.

A contract for building dwellings at the village of Coates was completed, the 6 houses and 12 bungalows enabled the outstanding unfit dwellings in the village to be cleared.

Work progressed satisfactorily on the Flatlet Scheme in Gracious Street for 20 single elderly persons.

As no new houses were constructed in the Town Area the number of unfit dwellings dealt with was restricted to a limited number of re-lets.

RENT ACT, 1957

There was one application under the above Act and a Certificate of Disrepair was issued.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Inspections made (under the Factories Act) for 1965

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	—	—
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced enforced.	48	36	1	—
Other premises	7	11	—	—
TOTAL :	55	49	1	—

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Found	Number of Cases in which Defects were found			Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
		Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Closet Unsuitable or Defective	1	1	—	—	—
TOTAL :	1	1	—	—	—

OUTWORK SECTIONS 110 & 111

There are no outworkers in the district.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

ICE-CREAM

There are 42 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream; all the ice-cream being pre-packed. The only loose ice-cream sold in the area is sold from vehicles.

There is no ice-cream manufactured in the area.

CONDEMNED FOOD

7 certificates were issued covering 144 items of foodstuffs which were voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers. Condemned food is disposed of by burying in the Council's Refuse Tip. It was not found necessary to seize any diseased or unsound food.

FOOD PREPARATION

Premises registered for the making up of food	11
Fish Friers	3
Bakehouses	3
Cafes	3
Other food shops	40
Public Houses	32

It is encouraging to note that there is more general awareness of the need for the hygienic storage and handling of foodstuffs.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is one modern privately owned licensed slaughterhouse in the area. It is well maintained and is capable of handling a much larger throughput than is being dealt with at present.

KNACKER'S YARD

There is one licensed knacker's yard which is satisfactory.

No live animals are brought on to the premises.

MEAT INSPECTION

All animals killed in the slaughterhouse are inspected although this has involved some overtime.

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle (exclud- ing cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	78	-	3	85	620	-
Number inspected	74	-	3	85	575	-

All diseases except
Tuberculosis & Cysticerai

Whole carcasses ccondemned	-	-	-	2	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	-	-	2	43	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerai	8.1	-	-	2.4	7.48	-

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	13	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	2.26	-

Cysticercoais

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

MEAT CONDEMNED

Bovines

2 livers abscesses	28 lbs.
3 livers distoma	24 lbs.
1 hindquarters bruising	7 lbs.

Pigs

13 heads and tongues tuberculosis	130 lbs.
1 head and tongue abscesses	8 lbs.
21 hearts and lungs inflammation	64 lbs.
6 kidneys nephritis	3 lbs.
5 livers hepatitis	18 lbs.
7 livers cirrhosis	3 lbs.
1 hock bruising	4 lbs.

Sheep

1 hindquarters bruising	40 lbs.
1 carcass and offal septicaemia	50 lbs.

